

What is claimed is:

1. A stereotactic frame (1) suitable for use in the determination of the position and/or orientation of a subject's head, **characterized by**

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– comprising at least three fiducial marker elements (6) for determining the location of said stereotactic frame (1), and

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– being adapted to support by an essential compressive force to the middle of the nasion of the subject being examined and/or treated so as to retain the stereotactic frame self-contained in place during an examination and/or treatment session.

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2. The stereotactic frame of claim 1, **characterized by** comprising a supporting frame structure (2 - 4) supported to the head of the subject being examined and/or treated.

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3. The stereotactic frame of any one of claims 1 - 2, **characterized by** having a localizing bow (1) in said frame structure.

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4. The stereotactic frame (1) of any one of claims 1 - 3, **characterized by** including at least one nasion relator portion (2) adapted to support to the subject's nasion.

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5. The stereotactic frame (1) of any one of claims 1 - 4, **characterized by** including a supporting body (3) outdistanced from the face of the subject being treated by virtue of being a supportive and/or supported member in relation to said nasion relator portion (2) and a supporting element (4).

6. The stereotactic frame (1) of any one of claims 1 - 5, **characterized in that** said nasion relator portion (2) is shaped substantially compliant with the subject's nasion,

whereby the design of the stereotactic frame (1) provides sufficient free space to accommodate the use of eyeglasses simultaneously with the stereotactic frame.

5 7. The stereotactic frame (1) of any one of claims 1 - 6, **characterized** in that said nasion relator portion (2) is adapted to provide support to at least one nose piece (5) compliant with the contour of the subject's face, whereby the nose piece (5) is either replaceable or has a modifiable shape or size such that allows the stability of the localizing bow to be improved, the user convenience to be enhanced and/or to facilitate the use of the localizing bow on another nasion of different size.

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8. The stereotactic frame (1) of any one of claims 1 - 7, **characterized** by including a supporting element (4) such as a band adapted to pass behind the neck or other portion of the subject's head, or, alternatively, a supporting element (4) otherwise passed to supportingly the rear of the subject being examined and/or treated, e.g.,
15 behind the subject's head, neck or shoulders.

9. The stereotactic frame (1) of any one of claims 1 - 8, **characterized** by being supportable to the external auditory channel and/or to the forehead, above the nasion.

20 10. The stereotactic frame (1) of any one of claims 1 - 9, **characterized** by including in the stereotactic frame (1) a band (4) passable behind the subject's head and/or neck so as to support the stereotactic frame to the head of the subject being examined and/or treated.

25 11. The stereotactic frame (1) of any one of claims 1 - 10, **characterized** by having the supporting body (3) of the stereotactic frame designed to structurally prevent the localizing bow from bending and/or shaped so as to leave the field of vision of the subject being examined and/or treated substantially unobstructed.

30 12. The stereotactic frame (1) of any one of claims 1 - 11, **characterized** by having the stereotactic frame (1) adapted placeable on the frontal side of the face of the

subject being examined and/or treated so as to be situated substantially outside the subject's field of vision.

13. A method for supporting a stereotactic frame suitable for use in the localization
5 of a subject's head, **characterized** in that the stereotactic frame (1) is supported with
an essential compressive force to the middle of the nasion of the subject being
examined and/or treated so as to retain the stereotactic frame (1) self-contained in
place during an examination and/or treatment session, whereby the location of the
stereotactic frame (1) is determined with the help of fiducial marker elements (6).

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14. The method of claim 13 for supporting a stereotactic frame, **characterized** in
that the stereotactic frame structure (2 - 4) is supported to the head of the subject
being examined and/or treated.

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15. The method of claim 14 for supporting a stereotactic frame, **characterized** in
that said frame structure is a localizing bow (1).

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16. The method of any one of foregoing claims 15 - 16 for supporting a stereotactic
frame (1), **characterized** in that at least one nasion relator portion (2) of the stereo-
tactic frame is supported to the nasion of the subject being examined and/or treated.

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17. The method of any one of foregoing claims 15 - 17 for supporting a stereotactic
frame (1), **characterized** in that therein is used a supporting body (3) outdistanced
from the face of the subject being treated by virtue of the body being a supportive
and/or supported member in relation to said nasion relator portion (2) and a support-
ing element (4).

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18. The method of any one of foregoing claims 15 - 17 for supporting a stereotactic
frame (1), **characterized** in that therein is used a nasion relator portion (2) shaped
substantially compliant with the subject's nasion and/or that the use of eyeglasses
simultaneously with the stereotactic frame (1) is facilitated.

19. The method of any one of foregoing claims 15 - 18 for supporting a stereotactic frame (1), **characterized** in that therein

- 5 – support to said nasion relator portion (2) is provided by using at least one nose piece (5) , and
- the nose piece is made either replaceable or has a modifiable shape or size such that improves the stability of the localizing bow, enhances the user convenience and/or facilitates the use of the localizing bow on another
10 nasion of different size.

20. The method of any one of foregoing claims 15 - 19 for supporting a stereotactic frame (1), **characterized** in that therein is used a supporting element (4) such as a band adapted to pass behind the neck or other portion of the subject's head, or, alternatively, a supporting element (4) otherwise passed supportingly to the rear of the
15 subject being examined and/or treated, e.g., behind the subject's head, neck or shoulders.

21. The stereotactic frame (1) used in any one of claims 15 - 20, **characterized** by
20 being adapted to be supported to the subject's external auditory channel and/or forehead, above the nasion.

22. The method of any one of foregoing claims 15 - 21 for supporting a stereotactic frame (1), **characterized** in that the stereotactic frame (1) is supported to the head of
25 the subject being examined and/or treated by means of a band (4) adapted to pass behind the subject's head and/or neck.

23. The method of any one of foregoing claims 15 - 22 for supporting a stereotactic frame (1), **characterized** in that the position of the stereotactic frame relative to the
30 organ being examined and/or treated is defined by means of at least one fiducial marker element included in the stereotactic frame (1).

24. The method of any one of foregoing claims 15 - 23 for supporting a stereotactic frame (1), **characterized** in that therein is used a supporting body (3) of the stereotactic frame, the supporting body being designed to structurally prevent the localizing bow from bending and/or being shaped so as to leave the field of vision of the
5 subject being examined and/or treated substantially unobstructed.

25. The method of any one of foregoing claims 15 - 23 for supporting a stereotactic frame (1), **characterized** in that the stereotactic frame (1) is placed on the frontal
10 side of the face of the subject being examined and/or treated so as to be situated substantially outside the subject's field of vision.